

THE Western Producer
P R E S E N T S



OFFICIAL SHOW GUIDE

January 9 - 12, 2001

Trade Centre & Wheatland Complex
Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition Park, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



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New Agriculture Manager stays the course for Crop Production Show

The Western Canadian Crop Production Show is now under the direction of Donna Bohrson, the recently appointed agriculture manager of Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition.

But don't expect sweeping changes for the 2001 show.

Bohrson, who has been with community-driven, non-profit organization in other capacities for six years and took over from previous agriculture manager Rudy

Friesen, adheres to the mantra, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

"We're not changing the focus of the show because it's been quite successful over the past number of years," says Bohrson. She says the deci-

sion to focus the show on the grain industry has been key to its success.

The 18th annual Western Canadian Crop Production Show is designed to deliver information, services and supplies that can help Western Canadian producers compete in today's grain industry.

Bohrson says the show will maintain its commitment to provide the latest in technology.

"We're going to continue to

feature new technology, such as the GPS (Global Positioning System) technology," Bohrson says, adding it's important that the show give farmers an opportunity to see the latest products, equipment and ser-



Donna Bohrson, the new Agriculture Manager, Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition Corporation

vices.

"It's an opportunity for the farmers to come to Saskatoon to research crop varieties and make decisions for their up-

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The Crop Production Show Official Show Guide is a supplement to

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coming crop year," she says.

"The exhibitors that come to the show are diversifying to meet the needs of today's farmer, so anything that has to do with putting the crop in the ground is here. It is strictly a grain producers' event."

The show has earned an enviable reputation for its variety and size. It takes up 130,000 square feet of indoor space, and indoors is a good place to be in January.

Held in conjunction with Crop Production Week, the Crop Production Show has become a "must-see" for grain producers throughout Saskatchewan and beyond. About 14,000 people attend the show from western Canada and the northern United States.

This year's event will feature 200 companies that will demonstrate products and services in approximately 500 display booths.

Displays will cover aspects of agricultural services and information, crop production practices and products, equipment and manufacturers, crop

inputs and application, commodity marketing, seed bed preparation, seed and soil information, specialty crops, straws and chaff management, grain handling, processing and transportation and harvest technology.

"Basically everything from seeding to harvest is what we accept into the show," Bohrsen says. "We get good reports from our exhibitors and our attendees, so we're meeting the needs of both of the key components."

Timing of the show, traditionally in the first half of January, is part of its success.

"This is the time when farmers are out making their final decisions," she says. "They realize that seeding is only a few short months away.

"So this is the time when they need to start getting their preparation for the upcoming year in place, because once spring comes, it will be too late."

Other features include the Seager Wheeler Pedigreed Seed Show and the school tour program.

The seed show, named after



Dr. Seager Wheeler is the namesake for this Popular Pedigreed Seed Show.

the famous Rosthern-area grower who was the world champion hard spring wheat grower five times between 1911 and 1918, attracts entries from seed growers across the Prairies.

The school tour program is a popular attraction for pre-registered Grade 6 classes from across the province, who are given farming facts, information and demonstrations at four different stations, each dealing with one aspect of grain production.

This year's show runs Jan. 9-12 at the Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition Trade Centre. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.



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Berscheid farm a family operation

Diversification is commonplace on the Berscheid farm near Lake Lenore, Sask., and the family works together on the farm's success.

Brothers Kim and Eric Berscheid won the Premier Exhibitor Award at last year's Seager Wheeler Pedigreed Seed Show for the highest scoring seed samples.

They give their wives, Brenda and Shelly, credit for helping them operate a 2,800-acre farm and seed growing business.

When you take into account all the children, "probably too many to mention," and their dad, Bernard, it's clear the

Berscheid farm is a family affair.

"It's a family operation and everybody pitches in," says Kim. "It's a lot of hard work by everybody. It's not just Eric and myself, it's our wives and our kids and we also have another brother (Clinton) who grows some seed for us."

Hard work can produce rewards, particularly when it's combined with a steady dose of diversification.

"It's hard work but it seems to be paying off," says Eric. "In the area here, the young guys are realizing that they have to diversify to make a go of it.

"You're always value-adding

to your product, because right now that's what it takes to get by. It probably would be nice to strictly grain farm like our dads did, but I just don't see that happening right now."

The Berscheids recently added bison to the farming



Continued on page 6

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Continued from 5

fold. They started with 10 and built the herd to 30. Some animals will deliver their first calves this season.

"We thought they'd be a good fit for us," says Eric. "They're not quite as intensive work, but I think the value is there and it's a real good fit as far as winter grazing and things like that."

The Berscheids have contributed to diversification in their district, as well.

"People in the area are actually quite open-minded (about diversification)," says Eric, noting peas were relatively common in the area before the crop was grown to the same extent in other regions. "People will give new things a try."

Identifying the trends and predicting crop demand are challenges for every seed producer, says Kim.

"It takes a lot more time, a lot more planning. You're looking two to four years ahead. So you've got to rub the crystal ball and look two years ahead at what your customers might need, whereas the average commercial farmer is looking at the grain next season."

"You can back yourself into purity problems with volunteers, seed problems, plus the regulations that the Canadian Seed Growers have with how closely you can rotate your crops."

The Berscheid brothers say the Western Canadian Crop Production Show provides valuable information.

"We like to go to crop show every year," says Eric.

"I wouldn't miss it," adds Kim. "It's a real good show. There's lots of information going on, there's various players in the industry and all of the major producer groups are there."

"It's a world-class show, very good, very professional."

As for their success at last year's show, neither brother is willing to make predictions. That's no surprise, considering last year's events.

"I was shocked when they called me," Kim says. "I knew we had some good samples in, but there was lots of other good samples."

"I don't know if we'll repeat," adds Eric, "but we'll have a few good samples again this year."

Seager Wheeler Pedigreed Seed Show Winners

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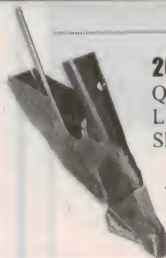


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Successful partnership was in the cards

When the 2001 winners at the Seager Wheeler Pedigreed Seed Show are unveiled, there's a good chance farmers from Pennant, Sask., will be on the winners' list.

Last year Don Dowdeswell and Paul Rogg, both of Pennant, each won a category; Dowdeswell for the grand champion pulse and Rogg for the grand champion cereal.

For Dowdeswell, top spot in the pulse category was his second consecutive win at the

Seager Wheeler Pedigreed Seed Show.

Rogg took the grand champion cereal category at this year's Western Canadian Agribition in Regina.

Is there a pattern developing here?

"What makes a good sample is sunshine and rain..."

in a 9,000-acre operation.

And although past successes would indicate otherwise, Dowdeswell modestly sug-

gests that growing championship seed is a matter of good fortune.

"It really is just a stroke of luck," Dowdeswell says of the partners' success. "What makes a good sample is sunshine and rain and if you happen to get those two things at the right time, then you'll have a pretty good chance."

The partners are apparently



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among the luckiest seed growers around, as an impressive list of past championships and placings would attest.

Luck aside, it takes hard work to be a seed grower, champion or otherwise, concedes Dowdeswell.

"The big challenge for any seed grower is with today's trend of continuous cropping and zero-tilling. When it used to be half and half (summerfallow and crop), it used to be not that tough."

Of 9,000 acres in production, about half are inspected for seed. The combination of acreage and stringent requirements of Canadian seed growers makes a challenging lifestyle.

"You've got to know the rotations to meet the Canadian Seed Growers' guidelines," says Dowdeswell, who also runs a 160-head pure-bred Hereford operation.

"And you've got to know the stats for the volunteers. At seeding time you've still got the same challenge as you do in harvest," Dowdeswell adds.

"As far as I know, there's no combine that's made for seed growers. You still have to pretty well shut down and blow your combine out and then wash it out with water.

"And that never seems to happen when you're down for a wet spell. It sure seems like you're always doing it on a beautiful harvest day."

Dowdeswell and Rogg keep the hectic pace with just one full-time and one part-time hired hand.

Ironically, it was the need for extra help that initially paired the ambitious duo. Rogg worked for Dowdeswell before striking a deal to become a landowner and partner in the operation.

"You could never make it on your own," Rogg says of the difficulty in establishing a successful farming operation. "You have to have some kind of help along the way."

Dowdeswell began farming with his father at an early age and earned his degree in agriculture in 1965. He wanted to provide full-time, year-round employment to a good hand.

Along came the seed operation and Rogg. It was a perfect combination.

"I was fairly young when my dad died," says

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Continued from page 9

Dowdeswell.

"I was trying to farm a fair bit of land and it was a challenge to keep a good man around if you couldn't provide him with year-round work."

Over time he and Rogg have increased the land base and tried other ventures, including custom harvesting, which

wound up about the time Dowdeswell decided to get into Hereford breeding.

He says the key to success is being able to adapt and turn challenges into opportunities.

And he's always planning the next move.

"I'd like to figure out some other things we could do," he

says. "If I was 35 instead of pretty near 60, I would sure be looking at doing some other kinds of things, like processing or something like that."

"It's more fun to get out and do something – like start a processing plant, anything – just get involved and take some positive action."

2001 WESTERN CANADIAN CROP PRODUCTION SHOW INFORMATION

Show Hours:

Tuesday, January 9
10 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Wednesday, January 10
10 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Thursday, January 11
10 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Friday, January 12
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Admission:

Adults: \$5.00
Children 12 and Under
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Prairieland Trade Centre Plaza

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Tuesday January 9	12:00 pm	TBA	
	2:00 pm	TBA	
Wednesday January 10	12:00 pm	Management Practices for Dry Beans	Steven Shirtliffe Plant Sciences Dept., U of S
	2:00 pm	Vigor Testing on Cereals, Pulse Crops & Canola	Bruce Carriere Discovery Seed Labs
Thursday January 11	12:00 pm	Ascochyta Blight in Pulse Crops	Sabine Banniza Crop Development Centre, U of S
	2:00 pm	Why is Soil Organic Matter Important?	Jeff Schoenau, Soil Science Dept., U of S
Friday January 12	12:00 pm	Getting the Most from Your Input Dollars	Larry Gramiak, Soils & Crops Specialist, Sask. Ag & Food
	2:00 pm	New Crops Insurance on Chick Peas	Colleen Rooney, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance

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Brandt Industries
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C

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United Agra Products
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System
Convey-All Industries Inc.

D

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Data Transmission Network
Davies Electric Company
Ltd.
Discovery Seed Labs Ltd.
Dow Agrosiences Canada
Inc.
Dryair 2000 Inc.

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Dupont Canada Inc.
Dutch Industries Ltd.

E

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Grand Coulee Processing
Early's Farm & Garden
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Machining Ltd.
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Ltd.
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I, J, K

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M

M & K Welding Inc.
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N, O

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CROP PRODUCTION WEEK 2001 - AGENDA

All Events at Saskatoon Inn, unless otherwise noted

www.cropweek.com

Monday, January 8, 2001

Pulse Days 2001

Sask Pulse Growers

- 12:00Registration
- 1:00Welcome & Opening Remarks
 - Lyle Minogue, Chairman, SK Pulse Growers (Lacadena, SK)
- 1:15**Key Note Presentation: Global Trends impacting Farmers**
 - Robert Napier, University of Sydney, (Sydney, Australia)
- 1:45Discussion
 - Diversifying into Chickpeas and Beans**
- 2:00Best Management Practices for Chickpeas
 - Yantai Gan, AAFC (Swift Current, SK)
- 2:25Producing Chickpeas in Southwest SK
 - Michael Kirk & Steve Erickson, Prime Pro Seeds Int'l (Frontier, SK)
- 2:45Best Management Practices for Dryland Beans
 - Steve Shirliffe, U of S (Saskatoon, SK)
- 3:10Producing Beans in Southern SK
 - Maurice Berry, Carlevalle, SK
- 3:30Discussion
- 3:40Refreshment Break
- 4:10Annual General Meeting
 - Election Results
 - How Your Levy Is Spent
 - Resolutions
- 7:30 - 10:00...Wine & Cheese at Prairieland Exhibition

FOCUS ON FLAX

Flax Growers Western Canada and SK Flax Dev't Commission

- 8:00Registration
- 9:00Welcome & Business Portion of the SFDC
 - Chris Hale
- 10:15Update from the Flax Council of Canada
 - Garvin Hanley
- 10:30Flax for Feed - Cutting your losses
 - James Drouillard, Kansas State University
- 11:45Lunch (provided)
- 1:00Flax Straw Management without Burning
 - Byron Irvine - Brandon Research Centre
- 1:30Flax Fiber - A Saskatchewan touch of luxury driving
 - Dennis Lepsch, Cambridge Ind., New York
- 2:15Flax Break
- 2:30Hard Look at the Market
 - Dr. Bill Riley, XCAN, Winnipeg
- 3:15Study on Agronomic Practices at Indian Head
 - Dr. Guy Lafond
- 3:45Closing Comments
 - Ron Gilmour

Cost: \$10.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the door

Tuesday, January 9, 2001

Pulse Days 2001

Sask Pulse Growers

- 8:00Registration
 - Export Prospects
- 9:00The Future of the Canadian Pulse Industry
 - Brian Clancey, STAT Publishing (Blaine, Washington, USA)
- 9:30Pulse Canada and Export Prospects
 - Les Rankin, Pres., Pulse Canada (Winnipeg, MB) and Marlene Boersch, Chairwoman of the Board, Pulse Canada (Winnipeg, MB)
- 10:00Discussion
- 10:15Refreshment Break
- 10:45Market Outlook for Lentils
 - Martin Chidwick, XCAN Grain Pool (Winnipeg, MB)
- 11:05Market Outlook for Chickpeas
 - Paul Lambert, PL International (Tiburon, California, USA)
- 11:25Market Outlook for Peas
 - Steve Foster, Sask Wheat Pool (Regina, SK)
- 11:45Market Outlook for Beans
 - John Thompson, WG Thompson & Sons (Blenheim, ON)
- 12:05Discussion
- 12:15Lunch and Awards
 - Fine Tuning Pulse Production**

Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association

72nd Annual General Meeting

- 12:30SSGA Annual Meeting Registration and Coffee (Canadian Room)
- 1:15SSGA Annual Business Meeting
 - President's Report - Rick McCarthy**
 - Welcome, Introduction of Guests
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Disposal of Minutes (71st Annual Meeting, January 2000)
 - Executive Director's Report - Dave Akister**

Tuesday Events Continued on page 18...

CROP PRODUCTION WEEK 2001 - AGENDA

- 1:30Optimizing Fertility in Lentils and Peas
 • Fran Walley, U of S (Saskatoon, SK)
- 1:50What's New in Crop Protection Products
 • Ray McVicar, SK Ag & Food (Regina, SK)
- 2:10Managing Diseases in Lentils & Chickpeas
 • Penny Pearce, SK Ag & Food
- 2:30Impact of Disease on Seed Quality of Peas, Lentils and Chickpeas
 • Robin Morrall, U of S (Saskatoon, SK)
- 2:50Discussion
- 3:00Refreshment Break
- 3:30What's New in the Pulse Industry
 • Tom Warkentin, Crop Dev't Centre (Saskatoon, SK)
- 3:55From Growing to Processing: How to Diversify
 • Murray Fulton, Centre for the Study of Cooperatives (Saskatoon, SK)
- 4:15Pulses: A Saskatchewan Success Story
 • Garth Patterson, Exec. Dir. Sask Pulse Growers (Saskatoon, SK)
- 4:35Discussion
- 4:45Door Prizes

- **Committee Reports**
 Education & Publicity - Dan Kirkham
 National Education and Publicity Committee
 National Directors' Report - Barry Reisner
 Larry Littman
 Financial Report - Dave Akister
Presentation of 2001 Budget - Donna Edwards
 Appointment of Auditor for 2001
- 3:00Refreshment Break
- 3:30Segregating GMO Wheat: An Industry Vision of the Future
 Panelists:
 • Patty Rosher, Market Dev't, CWB, & representative to Industry Wheat Quality Segregation Committee
 • Ed Guest, Executive Director, Western Grain Elevator Association
 • Barry Senft, Chief Commissioner, Canadian Grain Commission
 Moderator:
 • Warren Kaeding, SSGA Director
- 5:00Recess
- 6:00Cocktails
- 7:00Banquet & Awards Presentation (Ballroom B)

Wednesday, January 10, 2001

Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association 72nd Annual General Meeting

- 8:15Continuation of Annual Business Meeting (Canadian Room)
 • CSGA President's Message - Jack Fotheringham, Reston, MB
 • Report from National, W.K. Roberston, Ottawa, ON
- 8:45Value of the Pedigreed Seed Industry
 • Lorne Hamblin, CSGA National Director, MB
- 9:15New Varieties Update:
 • David Gehl, Agriculture Canada, Indian Head
- 9:30The Economic Impact of GMO wheats on Prairie Farms
 • Dr. Hartley Furtan, Saskatoon
- 10:00Refreshment Break
- 10:20Nominating Committee Report
 • Election of Officers
- 10:45New Varieties Update:
 • Dr. Stephen Fox, Crop Dev't Centre, U of S
- 11:00Resolutions Committee Report
- 11:30Adjourn
- 11:35Member to Member Session - Closed
 • Moderator - Rick McCarthy, SSGA President

Saskatchewan Mustard Growers Assoc. (SMGA)

- 8:45Opening Remarks
 • Brett Meinert, SMGA, Shaunavon
- 9:00Value for Check-off Dollars
 • Roy Button, SK Canola Dev't Commission Saskatoon
- 9:45AAFC Mustard Breeding Objectives and Licensing Arrangements
 • Ashleigh O'Sullivan, AAFC, Saskatoon
- 10:15Coffee Break
- 10:45The Mustard Associations Commentary on AAFC Breeding Objectives
 • Dave McFarlane, Agricore
- 11:00The Importance of Quality in Mustard Production
 • Jadwiga Dera, G.S. Dunn and Co., Hamilton
- 11:45Lunch Break
- 12:45Annual General Meeting - Agenda TBA
 • Brett Meinert
- 1:30Mustard Marketing Update
 • Steve Gadiant, SWP, Regina
- 2:15Adjourn

Canola Days

Saskatchewan Canola Dev't Commission
 Saskatchewan Canola Growers Assoc.

- 1:00SCDC Business Meeting
- 2:15Canola Marketing Opportunities in Mexico & China
 • Bill Riley, Ph.D, Planning & Market Dev't, XCAN Grain Pool Ltd.
- 3:00Refreshment Break
- 3:30Potential New Products from Canola Meal
 • Rex Newkirk, Research Associate, Animal & Poultry Science, U of S
- 4:00Extending Diesel Engine Life with Canola Fuel Additives
 • Barry Hertz, P. Eng., Mechanical Engineering, U of S

GENERAL SESSION

Public Forum Organized by -- CPW Committee & College of Agriculture, U of S

Who Will Farm The Land? (How will it be farmed?)

- 7:00Welcome, Opening Comments and Sponsor Recognition - Kevin Hursh PAG.
- 7:10Highlights from the College of Agriculture
 • Dean Ernie Barber, PAG., P.Eng
- 7:25Factors Driving Change in Crop Production
 • Tom Allen, PAG., Agricultural Economics U of S
- 7:55Panel: Aboriginal Peoples Future Involvement in Agriculture
 • Dale Worme, PAG. Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Admin. Saskatoon
 Expand or Diversify? Smaller May Be Better.
 • Kelvin Meadows, Northfork Seeds Inc., Moose Jaw and Dir. of SK Canola Dev't Comm
 A Newcomer's Vision for Agriculture in Saskatchewan
 • Bob Young, Producer, Dysart
- 8:55Discussion Period
- 9:15Networking (coffee, dessert, cash bar)

CROP PRODUCTION WEEK 2001 - AGENDA

Thursday, January 11, 2001

Canola Days

Saskatchewan Canola Dev't Commission
Saskatchewan Canola Growers Assoc.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8:00Registration & SCGA Annual Meeting | 11:45GM Canola Update
• Bill Greuel, Prov. Specialist, Oilseed & Transgenic Crops |
| 10:00Canola Markets & Outlook
• Errol Anderson, Author of the daily "ProMarket Wire" report & Risk Management Commodity Broker. | 12:15Lunch |
| 11:00Refreshment Break | 1:30Transportation Panel
• Industry and Saskatchewan producer views
Speakers TBA |
| 11:15Component Pricing of Canola. How could it benefit our Producers?
• Howard Morris, GM & Pres., Advanta Canada Inc. | 3:15Refreshment Break |
| | 3:302000 Canola Production Sites Results
• Canola Council of Canada Agronomists |
| | 6:00SCGA Banquet & Casino Night |

Friday, January 12, 2001

2001 Herb and Spice Conference

SK Herb & Spice Association www.saskherbspice.org
(Ballrooms A & B) (in association with Sask Ag & Food (SAF) & SK Nutraceutical Network (SNN))

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8:00Annual General Meeting | 11:00Session Chair - Brian Porter, SAF
Wanda Wolf - Lone Wolf Herb Resources - Internet Marketing |
| 9:30Concurrent Sessions -- (A & B) | 1:00Session Chair - Kelley Fitzpatrick - SNN
Use of Herbs & Spices in Animal Nutrition
Dr. Brian Hartley |
| 10:10Break-Trade Show | 2:00Break-Trade Show |
| 10:40Concurrent Sessions (A & B) | 2:30Concurrent Sessions |
| 11:40Lunch | |
- Concurrent Session A - Ballroom A - Herbs**
9:30Session Chair - Connie Kehler, SHSA
• Dr. Branka Barl, U of S - Herb Quality
9:50Jo Detillieux, Northern Lights - Herb Production
10:40Session Chair - Jim Yakubowski, SHSA
• Ben Voss / Trevor Crowe, U of S - Mechanical Harvesting of Herbs

- | | |
|---|--|
| 11:00Dr. Jazeem Wahab, CSIDC - Herb Agronomy | 11:20Dr. Owen Olfert, AAFC - Aster Yellows Disease |
| 2:30Session Chair - Kelley Fitzpatrick, SNN & Connie Kehler, SHSA | Natural Products Act Workshop |
| 4:00Adjourn | |
- Concurrent Session B - Ballroom B - Spices**
9:30Session Chair - Dale Risula, SAF
• Ray McVicar, SAF - Spice Crop Statistics Update
9:50Dr. Lorne Duczek - Spice Crop Disease Update
10:40Session Chair - Martin Gareau - SHSA
• Dr. Manjula Bandara - AAFC - Spice Crop Breeding
11:00Dr. Gene Arganosa, U of S - Spice Crop Quality
11:20Duane Phillippi - SK. Hemp Association
2:30Session Chair - Ray McVicar, SAF
• Speaker - Steven Zener, Spice Canada - Spice Market and Uses
3:30Session Chair - Bob Rugg, SAF
• Spice Crop Disease Workshop - Penny Pearse, Lorne Duczek, Kan-Fa Chang, Sheau-Fang Hwang
4:30Adjourn

SAGA

SK. Ag Grads Association

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9:00Annual General Meeting | |
| 10:15Refreshment Break | |
| 10:30Debate | BIRT: The Canadian taxpayer has a responsibility to support Canadian farmers |
| 12:00Lunch | |
| 12:40Guest Speaker | • Dean Ernie Barber - College of Agriculture |
| 1:45Adjourn | |
| 4:00First Curling Draw | |
| 5:00First Game of Hockey Draw | |
| 8:00 - 1:00 AM.....SAGA Mixer - Saskatoon Inn | |

**All Events at
Saskatoon Inn,
unless otherwise
noted.**

Saturday, January 13, 2001

SAGA Banquet

Saskatoon Inn

- Evening
- | |
|------------------------------------|
| 5:30Cocktails |
| 6:30 PMDinner |
| 7:30Awards and Presentations |
| 9:00 - 1:00 AM.....Dance |

School tour program gets passing grade

Saskatchewan's population is gradually moving from rural to urban, and agricultural knowledge once considered commonplace is becoming more difficult to obtain.

But even those on the farm can gain more farm knowledge through the school tour program at the Western Canadian Crop Production Show.

The program is a popular segment of the annual show. Geared towards Grade 6 students, it seems to be as popular with teachers as it is with students.

"I got my (registration) information and faxed it back in right away the same day because I wanted to make sure I didn't miss the chance to be there," says Shelly Loeffler, a Grade 6 teacher at Lakeview



School in Saskatoon. She has taken her class to the show for each of the past five years.

Loeffler admits her enthusiasm wasn't always as evident as it is today.

In fact, before her first show, when she didn't know what she was getting into, Loeffler questioned the value of the field trip.

"When someone first suggested that I go to the Crop Production Show for the school tour program, I thought 'ho-hum, why would anyone choose a field trip to the Crop Production Show?' " Loeffler recalls. She changed her mind after she and her class participated.

"I was so impressed, because when you go, there are four different sessions that you go to and you have professional people in each field speak to you."

Loeffler says the quality of the speakers adds to the presentations, because they are able to answer almost any question students may have.

She also says the length of the presentations, usually 15

to 20 minutes, is ideal for informing but not overwhelming students. Loeffler likes the fact that tours are designed for students at the Grade 6 level, an age where children are impressionable and interested in new things.

But what pleases her most about the program is the way it offers senior citizens and children the chance to interact.

"Senior citizens, retired people, farmers, come and share their background experience with the students, which is huge for Saskatchewan kids to learn," she says.

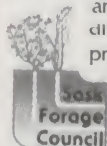
"It gives seniors and kids a chance to interact and that is really important to maintain a connection between the past and the future."

Tours may be especially beneficial to urban students, says Loeffler.



Canadian Forage and Turfseed Conference 2001

The Canadian Forage and Turfseed Conference, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Forage Council, will take place at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon from January 18-20. Close to 40 speakers will provide the latest information on markets, production and research. Keynote speakers are: Jeff Steiner of Corvallis, Oregon on production systems and markets in the Pacific Northwest; Michel Nas of Barenbrug Seeds, Holland on international production and markets; and Hartley Furtan of the University of Saskatchewan on diversification in prairie agriculture. From 200-300 producers, industry personnel, and extension specialists are expected to attend.



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"It keeps them in touch with their roots. A lot of them have a farming history somewhere in their family, so this gives them the opportunity to retain that a little bit."

The enthusiasm generated by the school tour program is evident in a game show-style quiz at the conclusion of the tour.

A quizmaster poses questions to selected members of the tour group. Since students from four different schools go on each tour, schools are pitted against each another to determine a winner.

"The game show is great for the mastery learning point of view, because you're taught the information in a number of different ways, and you're



taught in a quick setting. Then you have to be tested on it almost immediately," says Loeffler.

"It's also a great team-building setting for the school because the class sits in bleachers, watches their classmates and cheers them on."

Now that she knows what the school tour is about, Loeffler is one of the program's

Schools can make full use of the Crop Production Exhibition and know that their students will learn & appreciate the experience.

biggest supporters.

"I love doing field trips. We go canoeing and to the art galleries, hiking and biking," she says. "But I think this is one of the best because they learn so much in a short time in a different setting."

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Show Hours:

Tuesday, January 9

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday, January 11

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday, January 12

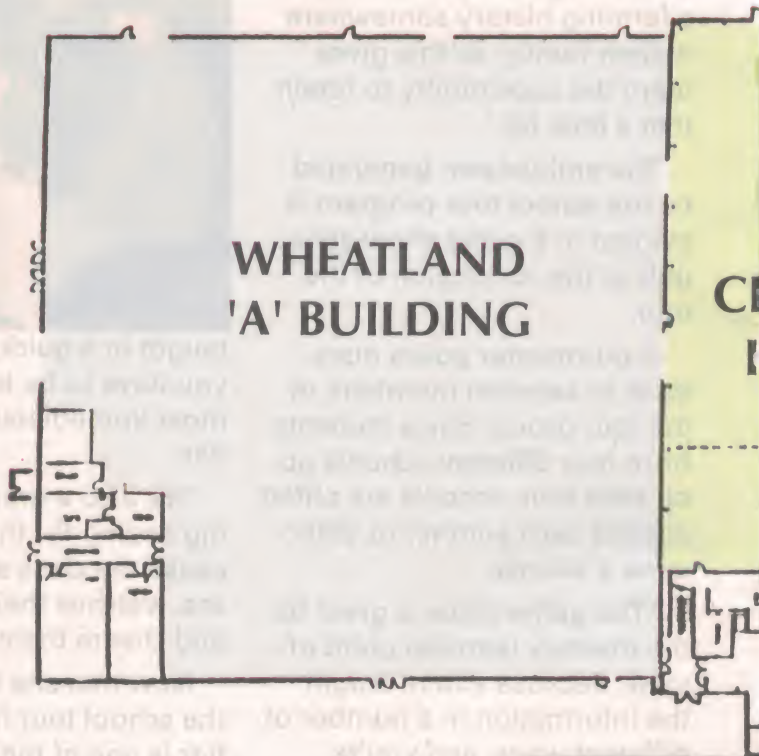
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission:

\$5.00

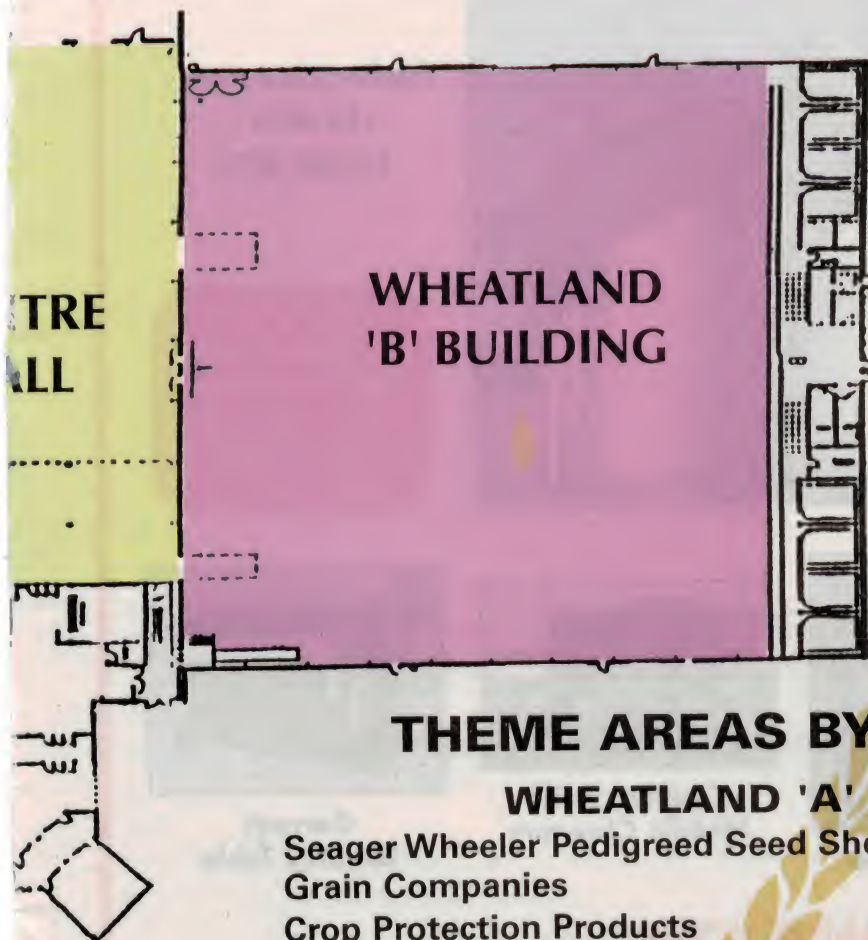
Children 12 years
and under free admission

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Grain Cleaning	Grain Processing
Grain Transportation	Straw & Chaff Management
Finance	Media
Information Theatre	

WHEATLAND 'B' BUILDING

Pulse Days Satellite Location (Monday & Tuesday Only)
School Tours (Wednesday - Friday)
Subject to change

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